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Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017

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RACISM IN HALIFAX

'I DON'T WANT TO SUGARCOAT ANYTHING'

Speakers like Quentrel Provo
to share their experiences
with racism in Halifax panel
metroNEWS



JEFF HARPER/METRO

Protecting diverse groups

LAW ENFORCEMENT

**New committee
aims to improve
relations with police**



**Zane
Woodford**
Metro | Halifax

Halifax is working on setting up a new advisory committee designed to improve the relationship between police and diverse communities.

The Police Diversity Advisory Committee (PDAC) will replace the Chief's Diversity Advisory Committee (CDAC), which was set up in the wake of a 2003 human rights board decision that found Halifax Regional Police racially discriminated upon boxer Kirk Johnson.

The CDAC met less and less over the years, and eventually disbanded altogether.

"For lack of a better term, it just petered out, unfortunately," Chief Jean-Michel Blais said during Monday's meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.

The terms of reference for the new committee are still in draft form, but the plan is to have 16 members — including Blais, RCMP members and community members like Emmanuel Baptist Church Rev. Dr. Lennett Anderson, Centre for Islamic Development Imam Mohamed Yaffa, and former councillor, now ISANS director of settlement and integration Jennifer Watts.

The committee would meet four times a year, and make recommendations to police on community policing, diversity and inclusion.

Halifax Regional Police Diversity Equity Officer Const. Amit Parasram presented the draft plan to the board on Monday, and said that while committees like this one won't automatically solve issues like the current controversy surrounding police street checks, they will create a dialogue.

"I don't think they're a solution to that problem, but they will certainly provide insight that the police department doesn't have access to without input from those community organizations," he said.

Parasram said some issues the committee will focus are gun violence, race in general and Islamophobia.



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Speakers to give insight on living with, fighting racism

ADVOCACY

Event marks day for eliminating discrimination



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Racism hurts.

That's what Quentrel Provo says about his daily experiences as a young black man living in Nova Scotia.

"I'm all about change and equality and love and spreading kindness, and to still face racism and be discriminated against today? It hurts," the founder of the Stop the Violence movement said Monday, a day ahead of speaking on an anti-racism panel.

He added it was disheartening when, as so often happens, no one would sit beside him or speak to him on the bus Monday.

"It was a packed bus and this one person got on and looked beside me and I even moved over so they knew they had a seat. They looked and kind of rolled their eyes, and just stood there instead," he recalled.

"Then someone got off in front of me and they sat down in that seat. It happens regularly. It's frustrating but I smile and go on with my day. But that's real. It's today's society. People don't sit beside you and some won't talk to you because you're a black young man."

Provo is one of five speakers who'll address a forum being



Tina Roberts-Jeffers is one of the speakers at a forum to mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. JEFF HARPER/METRO

held in Dartmouth on Tuesday night to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

"Even though I do Stop the Violence, even though I went to school, I work for the government and I'm a community leader, as a young black man I still encounter racism. Every single day," he said.

"I want to discuss that (Tuesday) because it's real and I don't

want to sugarcoat anything. Racism still exists. It's an important discussion."

Provo said qualified young black men from North Preston face an uphill battle finding jobs because of the stigma that surrounds his community.

He said too often people who've never been there immediately judge and make assumptions.

"I'm going to really talk

about the stigma of being from a black community... I want people to see me and look at me for who I am, to look at me and not stigmatize where I'm from because of what you've heard," he said.

"I want people to not judge a book by its cover, to not judge me as a person by the community that I'm from or because I'm a young black man."

The Speakers' Forum on Ra-

WHERE & WHEN

The Speakers Forum On Racial Discrimination happens Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Dartmouth's Woodlawn United Church, 54 Woodlawn Rd. The facility is accessible and everyone is welcome.

cial Discrimination is described by organizer Bill McEwen as a public night of education and understanding. He's hoping it'll attract a large crowd.

"Racism isn't something new...With the rise in hate crimes, especially the horrific shootings in Quebec, I've been looking for a way to do something, to act beyond social media and my limited circle and this seemed like a great way to do that," McEwen said when asked what prompted him to organize the event.

"The forum format gives people who are racially discriminated against a way to describe what that's like, and to give us insight into what we can do to try and help fight it with them."

Besides Provo, speakers include: Rana Zaman, community activist and leader in the local fight against Islamophobia; Tina Roberts-Jeffers, community and black education activist; Alan Knockwood, Mi'kmaq elder and residential school survivor; Dr. Ingrid Waldron, associate professor at Dalhousie University's school of nursing and environmental racism advocate.

FOUNDER CONTROVERSY

Church to change name

An African Baptist church that dates back to the early 1800s is changing its name to scrub it of any reference to Halifax's controversial founder, who some say was guilty of a type of genocide against the Mi'kmaq.

Rev. Rhonda Britton of the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church said Monday that a motion was accepted at a recent meeting to remove any connection to Edward Cornwallis, who founded Halifax in 1749 and soon after issued a bounty on the scalps of Mi'kmaq men, women and children.

Britton said church members accepted the motion because the name perpetuates the harm done to the Mi'kmaq, who have long called for removal of municipal tributes to Cornwallis because of actions some have deemed to be genocidal.

"I was really pleased that folks seemed to grab hold of that and be excited by it," she said. "The elders who have been here the longest are in favour (of) the change. People recognize that you can't change the history, but you don't have to perpetuate the harm."

Daniel Paul, a Mi'kmaq elder and author who has led the movement to remove Cornwallis's name from city monuments, said he was pleased with the church's decision.

Paul said he's not worried that history will be forgotten or sanitized if Cornwallis's name is removed, adding that he will continue to be remembered for founding the city but doesn't need to be "celebrated" on buildings, parks or streets.

Britton said the new name will be decided after a committee evaluates suggestions put forward by members of the church and they are put to a vote. It will likely be unveiled at a meeting in the summer of 2018 to coincide with renovations at the church.

Paul said the move unites two groups that have suffered discrimination.

"It shows a coming together of the Mi'kmaq and the black community to work together to get something done that's positive. Both of us have suffered racial discrimination for a long, long period of time so it's nice to see us begin to see a meeting of minds on a certain subject," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Marchand, Crosby make stars of week

In a rare coincidence, the top NHL stars of the week mostly hailed from Halifax.

Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand, and Pittsburgh Penguins centre Sidney Crosby, were named first and second respectively in the NHL's "Three Stars" for the week ending March 19.

The third star went to Calgary Flames goaltender Brian Elliott.

The NHL release said Marchand was awarded first star after

leading the league with 5-4-9 in three games (all multi-point performances) — to help carry the Bruins (38-27-6, 82 points) to a pair of victories.

Crosby was awarded second star after netting six goals and being ranked second with eight points in four starts to guide the Penguins (45-17-9, 99 points) to a 2-1-1 week.

He also capped the week with his 10th career three-goal game

(and third career natural hat trick) in a 4-0 win against the Florida Panthers on March 19.

The 29-year-old from Cole Harbour leads the NHL with 40 goals and 80 points in 65 games this season, just ahead of Marchand. Crosby's 40 goals are his second-best season total, behind the 51 he scored in 2009-10 en route to sharing the Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy.

METRO

DONALD TRUMP

Meetup chapter forms

People all around the world are resisting Donald Trump's presidency on Meetup.

Meetup, a networking tech site that brings groups together who share similar interests, has been forming #Resist groups in different cities. There are currently platforms in both Halifax and Dartmouth.

The members, who all appear to be concerned about democracy, equality, human rights

and social justices, can schedule Meetup events in their own neighbourhood.

So far, there are 123,365 members that have joined the pushback and 1,008 #Resist Meetup groups that have events scheduled for upcoming dates around the world.

Metro Halifax reach out to local organizers and Meetup members but did not get any responses. GRACE GORMLEY/FOR METRO

WELLNESS

Province adds mental health funds for youth

The Nova Scotia government says it will take steps to improve mental health care for children and youth in response to recommendations from a minister's advisory panel.

Health Minister Leo Glavine said Monday his department is adopting four of the panel's recommendations, including one to improve mental health care through health centres in schools.

He says the province will invest \$4.4 million by 2019-20 to add 51 new mental health clinicians and community outreach workers.

The province will also create a single centre that uses a toll-free line, the Internet and smart phones to provide mental health and addictions information for youth.

Glavine says the province will develop consistent mental health and addictions curriculum for schools from primary to Grade 6, as well as for high school students.

In addition, the Health Department is planning to ensure "all mental health service providers must receive evidence-based suicide risk assessment and suicide risk management training."

Glavine says the need for mental health and addictions support is growing across the province and there is a need to find new ways to reach those who need help. THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$4.4M

Amount the province will add by 2019-20 to hire an additional 51 new mental health clinicians and community outreach workers.

Don't let developers design city

URBAN PLANNING

Homeowners urge officials to wait for Centre Plan



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

A group of Halifax homeowners is calling on the municipality to stop accepting development applications until the Centre Plan has been completed and approved.

On Monday, members of the Willow Tree Group held a news conference to express their concerns about "the abuse of the development agreement process," using a proposal by APL Properties Ltd. (George Armoyn) as a "prime example" of their concern.

That proposed 20-29 storey development at the corner of Robie and Quinpool roads goes before HRM council for approval on Tuesday.

"APL as it turns out is just one of many highrises that are proposed, approved, under construction or recently completed," said Steve Parcell, a member of the group and a Dalhousie University architect-



The proposed Willow Tree development has caused a group of homeowners to organize in protest — and the homeowners are calling themselves the Willow Tree Group. WM FARES

ture professor.

During a presentation, Parcell pointed to an image showing all highrise buildings over five storeys that fit into one of

those categories.

"Clearly from the distribution of dots there is no recognizable urban pattern, there's really no vision behind where

these things are going," Parcell said.

The Willow Tree Group and 11 other community groups have written an open letter

to the mayor and council requesting a halt on site-specific zoning amendments in the Regional Centre until the Centre Plan has been completed and approved.

"The Willow Tree Group believes it's a bad idea to let developers devise a vision for the city," Parcell said.

"Planning should come before development and before doing anything the Quinpool District needs a well rounded, evidence-based, deep planning study."

In an email, Adam McLean, director of development and sales with Armco Capital, responded to the Willow Tree Group's press release.

"The demographics in HRM are changing and there is a large demand for multi unit housing in and around the peninsula with vibrant commercial at street level. The city should not be considering halting development or establishing a moratorium until a consensus plan for downtown is developed," McLean said.

"There will also be opposition to development, because it means the character of an area is seeing change. We believe this change is progressive and will add good density in a growth corridor and vibrant retail."

MORE SNOW NO SPRING IN SIGHT

Snow blankets the Halifax Common after an overnight storm on Monday. The Halifax region received a mix of snow and freezing rain which cancelled schools throughout the area.

Even though Monday marked the official start of spring, Environment Canada is calling for a mixed bag of weather for the rest of the week, with a chance of more flurries on the weekend.

JEFF HARPER/METRO



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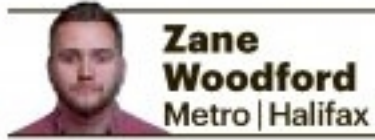
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Police asked to be partner

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIANS

Report on orphanage presented to commissioners



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Halifax's board of police commissioners got a presentation Monday on work being done on the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children Restorative Inquiry.

The Council of Parties commission working on the inquiry filed a preliminary report last month outlining the ways African Nova Scotians continue to face systemic racism in the province.

The inquiry was launched in 2015 after former residents of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children received a formal apology from the province for years of abuse endured by residents of the orphanage.

At Monday's meeting, Council of Parties members Tony Smith



Council of Parties member Tony Smith addresses the Board of Police Commissioners meeting at Halifax City Hall on Monday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

(a former resident of the home) and Chief Judge Pamela Williams presented that report to the board of police commission-

ers at the request of its chair, Deputy Mayor Steve Craig.

Smith and Williams told the board they spent much of

"This is an opportunity to have a real dialogue, to talk in a safe environment."

2016 building relationships with former residents of the home and others. They've also been holding sharing circles, where

people talked about what happened to them, and the racism they continue to face in Nova Scotia.

Soon they'll start holding what they call partners circles, where they bring in government and justice system officials to talk about what they can do.

"Folks from the policing community, for example, will be invited to partners circles to talk about issues surrounding discrimination and racism," Williams said.

Smith said Halifax Regional Police Chief Jean-Michel Blais and RCMP officers were brought in at the start of the process, and they'll be invited back to work together with the council to combat racism.

"You know more about what goes on in a police department than we do," Smith said.

"There's certain policies in place that may be positive may be negative, or whatever, but this is an opportunity to have a real dialogue, to talk about that in a safe environment."

The Council of Parties for the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children Restorative Inquiry will file a final report in spring 2018.

DRUGS

Hunt for missing evidence still on

Halifax Regional Police are still looking for that missing evidence.

Chief Jean-Michel Blais gave an update to the board of police commissioners at its meeting on Monday on what's been found and what's still outstanding after the force's drug exhibit audit.

Blais said the total amount of Canadian currency that was originally reconciled was up after review from \$98,999 to \$104,269, but police have found about \$6,000 more of it, meaning just over \$25,000 is still outstanding.

Blais told the board that four people are working on finding the evidence — three constables and one civilian RCMP member.

An original audit was conducted between June and November 2015 after an officer was accused of stealing from an evidence vault, and police started a full audit last year

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

ANIMALS

PetSmart grant to help SPCA expand its feral cat program

Grace Gormley
For Metro | Halifax

The Nova Scotia SPCA has landed a major grant to continue their mobile clinic.

On Monday, PetSmart Charities awarded the provincial branch of the SPCA with \$107,000 to operate their mobile clinic.

The grant will allow the SPCA to expand its feral cat Trap-Neuter-Return program

in 2017. Their goal is to visit over 40 locations across the province to spay/neuter over 1,000 cats.

Locations where the clinic hope to operate must meet certain conditions such as permissions from the veterinary practices in the community, then must be approved and accredited by the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association.

For those dates, the SPCA will only service feral cats or SPCA-owned animals.

Elizabeth Murphy, CEO of the Nova Scotia SPCA, said in a release they are excited about the Mobile Clinic's opportunity to make a direct impact on improving feral cat's lives across N.S.

Feral cats are humanely trapped by the SPCA, spayed or neutered, ear tipped and then returned to their colony. Less breeding, fighting and disease transmission are all benefits that will positively affect the cat's lives and the community.

EMPLOYMENT

High tuition could play a role in low job numbers: Advocate

Nova Scotia has lost more jobs for young people than any other province in Canada.

Numbers released by Statistics Canada last week revealed that over the last two years, the number of youth employed in the province has dropped 10 per cent, from 63,400 to 57,200.

Charlotte Kiddell, chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students-Nova Sco-

tia, says students in N.S. are graduating into one of the weakest labour markets in Canada.

"This government has failed to create the job opportunities they promised young people when elected nearly four years ago," Kiddell said in a release.

This news comes almost two years after the province lifted the cap on tuition fees, resulting in such fees increas-

ing by 5.6 per cent last year, the release said.

"When jobs are unavailable, the government should be doing everything in their power to make skills training more accessible," said Kiddell.

High tuition fees and student debt loads are also preventing youth from pursuing job opportunities, the release said.

GRACE GORMLEY/FOR METRO

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The Armdale traffic circle receives traffic in five directions and is one of the main entrance and exit points to the city. Researchers at Dalhousie University have established a computer model using traffic statistics that could help the city prepare for a mass evacuation. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Software simulates evacuations

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY Researchers' program looks at city's disaster response plans

A pair of researchers in Halifax are working on an elaborate, computerized disaster-planning simulator that will one day function like a multiplayer video game — the first version of which has already plotted what could happen in the event of a catastrophic flood.

Professor Ahsan Habib at Dalhousie University says a test of an early model has suggested it would take 15 hours to evacuate the densely populated Halifax peninsula if the ocean suddenly rose between 3.9 and 7.9 metres.

"We have only five exit points ... (making) our transportation network very vulnerable in a mass evacuation," Habib said in an interview Monday from the Dalhousie Transportation Collaboratory, a lab that brings together civil engineers and urban planners. "This is just a bare-bones model, and now we'll start playing with it."

Habib says narrow roads and

lack of highways would make an evacuation particularly difficult.

"The ultimate goal is (to) come up with some sort of a game at the end, making it much more user-friendly so that emergency managers can get training and learn lessons," Habib says.

Dalhousie professor Kevin Quigley says the final version of the program will operate much like a massive multiplayer online role-playing video game — but that will take another two years to develop.

"As more young people join emergency management offices, this is the kind of tool that they'll be comfortable using," said Quigley, an expert on risk at the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance.

The latest mathematical models include municipal data from automated traffic lights and detailed travel logs from 1,200 people from the peninsula.

However, the current scenario looks only at how people would escape in their own cars. The use of municipal and school buses hasn't been factored in, and neither has the potential for widespread panic. As a result, the 15-hour evacuation estimate is probably overly optimistic, Quigley said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GREEN SPACE

Province invests \$300K in Upper Clements Park

Grace Gormley
For Metro | Halifax

The aging Upper Clements Park will be getting an upgrade worth \$300,000.

Premier Stephen McNeil announced the province's investment on Monday to help improve the theme park.

The park is a place where visitors and Nova Scotians come to have fun and experi-

ence the beauty of Annapolis Valley, said McNeil in a release.

"Investing in projects like this helps build and maintain strong communities," he said.

The park, which has been operating for 30 years, features many attractions including water facilities, rides and pathways.

The funding will help improve the main attractions of the park including the carousel, roller coaster and



Improving Upper Clements Park will help it continue to attract thousands of visitors to Annapolis County. David Brown

flume ride.

Funding will also go towards park infrastructure, like new metal roofing and removing old enclosures from the former wildlife park.

"Improving Upper Clements Park will help it continue to

attract thousands of visitors to Annapolis County every year and offer employment opportunities for people in the community," said David Brown, chair of the Upper Clements Park Society in the release.

Jason Landry,
Civil Engineering
Technician

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NOVA SCOTIA

IN BRIEF

St. Francis Xavier gets \$1M for accessibility upgrades

A \$1-million contribution from the province will be providing support for the Special Olympics Canada 2018 Summer Games.

Funding will be going towards one of the main venues, St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish,

Minister Randy Delorey announced Monday.

Delorey, Finance and Treasury Board Minister, said the funding will improve seating improvements at the university's Oland Centre to provide better accessibility for the 4,000 athletes and their families.

GRACE GORMLEY/FOR METRO

Details ahead on new social services program

BUDGET

Infrastructure bank could bring in billions of dollars in funds

A new infrastructure bank could free up billions in new money for social services Canadians regularly use, internal government documents say — provided the experimental new institution meets its lofty financing goals.

The presentation, prepared for the economic growth council that's advising Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his cabinet, shows transit and water projects going through the bank could mean more federal dollars for social infrastructure like child care, recreational facilities and seniors' centres.

Funding for social infrastructure projects, which tend to be less attractive to private investors, could increase by one-third if the bank meets its target of leveraging \$4 in private investment for every \$1 from the federal government, the documents indicate.

Those documents, obtained under the Access to Information Act, demonstrate the Liberal government's thinking on how money from its long-term infrastructure program could help them meet their economic and political goals.

The program's three streams — social, transit and so-called "green" infrastructure — are worth almost \$69.1 billion in new funding over the next 10 years.

Wednesday's budget will unveil more details of how the money will flow and where the funding for the bank will come from, say sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Concerns have persisted that the funding would be diverted



Much of the political intrigue ahead of Finance Minister Bill Morneau's second federal budget Wednesday has been removed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

away from money earmarked to cities and provinces.

The government has argued the promised infrastructure money remains available even if it is delivered through the bank, which cities and provinces will have the option of using.

More details about the bank itself will come in the weeks and months to follow once cabinet has approved tabling the legislation that will create the institution, the sources said.

The Liberals plan to finance the bank with \$35 billion — \$15

billion of it in cash — to back-stop projects and attract private investment for those that can generate revenue through transit fares, water rates or road tolls.

The hope is that the federal money will generate \$140 billion in private investment, particularly from pension plans looking for steady, predictable returns that will also keep up with inflation.

The government has already unveiled the concept of the bank and the dollar figures attached to it, removing much of the political intrigue ahead of Finance

Minister Bill Morneau's second federal budget Wednesday.

But the concept has unleashed flurry of arguments.

A study released Monday from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives suggests the bank will cost Canadians more over the long term. In it, economist Toby Sanger argues that much depends on interest rates: The federal government can borrow at rates below 2.5 per cent, while private investors want returns of seven to nine per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Trudeau replicas turned up at an event last June organized by the Canadian consulate in Atlanta and earlier this month at a Canadian music festival in Austin, Tex. TWITTER.COM

Cut it out: Cardboard Trudeaus get banned

Justin Trudeau may still be a big draw on the international circuit, but his cardboard stand-ins have fallen flat.

Global Affairs has instructed diplomatic missions in the U.S. to stop using life-size cardboard cut-outs of the prime minister to promote Canada. The order follows the revelation last week that prime ministerial replicas turned up at an event last June organized by the Canadian consulate in Atlanta and earlier this month at a Canadian music festival in Austin, Tex.

The Canadian embassy in Washington also rush-ordered a cut-out of its own for use at Canada Day celebrations last year, at a cost of \$147.79, including \$72.80 for next-day delivery.

The embassy has not explained whether the cardboard Trudeau was ever actually used. Regardless, it will now have to go into storage.

"We are aware of instances where our missions in the United States had decided to

purchase and use these cut-outs," Global Affairs spokeswoman Natasha Nystrom said in an email. It's not clear if the missions ever had departmental permission to use the cardboard cut-outs.

According to emails obtained by the Conservatives through the Access to Information Act, the Washington embassy's interest in using a cardboard likeness was sparked by word that the Atlanta consulate had put one on display at a pre-Canada Day event last year.

Asked if Ottawa had given permission, Louise Blais, the Atlanta consul general, advised the embassy that she did ask but "never got an answer."

Anna Gibbs, senior events production manager at the Washington embassy, was excited about the prospect of putting Trudeau's image on display.

"I think this will be a hoot and extremely popular and go well with our Snapchat filter," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BUDGET

No decision made on selling off Canada's major airports

Ottawa has made no decisions on the sell-off of Canada's big airports and the government continues to weigh its options, Finance Minister Bill Morneau says.

The federal Liberals have been looking at the potential sale of major airports, now run by not-for-profit airport authorities, to reap a windfall that could be directed to other spending priorities.

While the Liberals prepare to deliver their second budget

on Wednesday, Morneau said that the issue remains under consideration.

"When we think about assets the government owns, I think we need to make sure that they are contributing to our opportunities for growth. We haven't come to any conclusions on airports," Morneau said in an interview last week.

"I will continue to look at any asset the government has to make sure it's helping us

to grow the economy as best as possible. In the case of airports, we'll look towards ensuring that we have a positive passenger experience and a good airport system," he said.

Both the Conservatives and New Democrats pressed the government on the issue in question period Monday, but Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was noncommittal about what the upcoming budget might say about airport privatization. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FBI probing ties to Russia

INVESTIGATION

White House moves to cut links to past associates

It's now been revealed that the FBI had two political bombshells ready to drop during the last U.S. election. One, it unloaded on Democrats two weeks before election day. The other it held onto — until two months into Donald Trump's presidency.

It dropped Monday.

In an announcement that could forever affect history's account of the 2016 election, the FBI announced that it has been investigating possible criminal collusion between the Russian government and associates of the Trump campaign since July.

FBI director James Comey revealed it while testifying to Congress. He's the same FBI director who during the campaign commented publicly about an investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails. The news came in a five-hour hearing that concluded with the Republican committee chair stating the politically obvious: this shadow will linger for a while, creeping over the Trump White House.

"There's a big, grey cloud that you have now put over people who have very important work to do to lead this country."

Comey replied: "I understand."

His revelation fanned a low-level fire crackling for months in the U.S. capital over why the

Putin government intervened in the U.S. election; what its motives might have been; and whether the Trump team knew about it.

Late last July, Comey said, the agency began investigating contacts between Trump associates and the Russian government — which is believed to have stolen emails from the Democratic party and leaked them through intermediaries Wikileaks and Guccifer.

The investigation will include whether crimes were committed. It's unclear how long the probe will take. And law-enforcement officials wouldn't say a word about which Trump associates were targeted. Comey declined to say whether his agency had questioned Michael Flynn, Trump's just-fired national-security adviser; Paul Manafort, his fired campaign manager; or Roger Stone.

The White House moved to cut ties to all of them.

Trump spokesman Sean Spicer played down the importance of Flynn, calling him "a volunteer of the campaign."

The so-called volunteer was Trump's No. 1 foreign-policy and national-security adviser. The man with the supposedly limited role? His campaign manager, who oversaw the party's national convention.

Another thing the men shared in common, beyond their senior roles: Flynn and Manafort both drew business revenues from entities close to the Putin government, and both were forced to quit over news stories about contact with Russians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



AFRICA 27 MILLION LACK ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER A girl washes her legs at a water point four kilometres from her home in Aweil, South Sudan. As World Water Day approaches on March 22, nearly 27 million people do not have access to clean water in Somalia, South Sudan, northeastern Nigeria and Yemen, compounding the problems of famine and civil war, according to UNICEF. Even those who can find water spend much of their day hiking, fetching and carrying the containers it.

MACKENZIE KNOWLES-COURSIN/UNICEF VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADVOCACY

Human rights group to address Trump

A pan-American commission will hold an emergency hearing in Washington to investigate the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's executive orders on human rights in the country.

Tuesday's hearing by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was prompted by the requests from advocates in Canada and the U.S. to review what they called "deteriorating" conditions faced by asylum seekers and other

migrants under the Trump administration.

These groups have asked the commission to make findings that Trump's travel ban against six Muslim-majority countries, which has been temporarily blocked by judges, and his expansion of detention and deportation against migrants violate U.S. human rights obligations. Some of the groups hope the human rights body will rule the U.S. is not safe for refugees and

recommend the suspension of the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement.

"The expedited removals and expansion of detention under the orders are going to have profound implications on the U.S. asylum system," said Efrat Arbel, a University of British Columbia law professor who co-authored, with the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program, a recent review of Trump's executive orders. The commission

is part of the Organization of American States, made up of 35 countries, with a mission to promote and protect human rights in the American hemisphere.

Since Trump's executive orders were issued, an increasing number of asylum seekers have risked their lives to cross the border outside of formal ports of entry into Canada in order to skirt the safe country agreement restrictions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EUROPEAN UNION

Countdown to Brexit begins

Britain will begin divorce proceedings from the European Union on March 29, starting the clock on two years of intense political and economic negotiations that will fundamentally change both the nation and its European neighbours.

Britain's ambassador to the EU, Tim Barrow, informed European Council President Donald Tusk of the exact start date on Monday morning.

"We are on the threshold of the most important negotiation for this country for a generation," Brexit Secretary David Davis said. "The government is clear in its aims: a deal that works for every nation and region of the U.K. and indeed for all of Europe - a new, positive

partnership between the U.K. and our friends and allies in the European Union."

The trigger for all this tumult is the innocuous-sounding Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, a never-before-used mechanism for withdrawing from the bloc. British Prime Minister Theresa May, under the Article, will notify Tusk of her nation's intentions to leave the 28-nation bloc.

The article stipulates that the two sides will have until March 2019 to agree on a divorce settlement and - if possible - establish a new relationship between Britain, the world's No. 5 economy, and the EU, a vast single market containing 500 million people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



British PM Theresa May

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Kid builds Lego for rent business

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Fans can pick from six sets of building blocks

Sarah Hoyles
For Metro | Edmonton

A 10-year-old from Edmonton is building a business out of Lego.

Gavin Garipey is renting out his collection of the toy building blocks as part of a new venture called Rent a Brick.

"Big Lego sets can be very expensive," said Garipey. "Not everyone can afford the biggest sets, so I thought people should get to try the amazing ones like these."

Currently, Lego enthusiasts can pick from six available sets, including the 2,144-piece Star Wars-themed Assault on Hoth Set which includes the wampa that captures Luke Skywalker, according to the Rent a Brick website.

Garipey takes rental book-

ings via text or through his website. Rentals start at \$15 and last for seven days, which Garipey figures provides "more than enough time to build and play with it. Then give it back."

He first got the idea of a Lego rental company last year, but needed capital. So he applied for a \$500 grant from a local bank.

Russ Morrow, CEO of River City Credit Union, said his financial institution gives 10 grants to youth aged 8-13 every year as part of a program for young entrepreneurs.

"It helps kids have an entrepreneurial experience," he said.

Garipey got his startup cash in June 2016, and spent it on building and maintaining a website at rentabrick.ca, as well as printing up business cards. He officially launched his company in January.

Since then, Garipey has had a handful of renters, mostly kids, but some adults, he said.

Garipey is planning to reinvest his profits to purchase more Lego sets and expand his inventory.



Gavin Garipey, 10, has started a new business called Rent A Brick, where he rents out expensive sets to fellow Lego fans. SARAH HOYLES/FOR METRO

RESEARCH

Gum a new lure for shoppers

Retailers hoping to engage shoppers may want to try handing out bubble gum at the door, according to new research.

In a series of five studies, researchers from Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Management in Toronto found that handing out gum to shoppers encouraged them to shop for more items and with a higher level of engagement.

The act of chewing made the shoppers more alert.

"If you're more alert, you're more likely to absorb the information that is in the store — the promotional and even the nutritional labels — and have the cognitive function to absorb that information," said Seung Hwan (Mark) Lee, associate professor, retail management, at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School

of Management.

The results were published in the Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services.

Although one of the five studies found that people chewing gum as they shopped for groceries were more likely to buy more items, none of the studies made a strong connection between chewing gum and money spent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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CONTINUING
EDUCATION

BLUEPRINT by David Hains

KEEPING TRANSIT ON TRACK

Transit ridership declined across North America in 2016, causing a revenue shortage in dozens of cities. It's tempting for some agencies to consider cutting service or increasing fares to make up the difference. But those moves can cause further declines in ridership, creating a vicious cycle.

Instead, Metro looks at how cities can get on a more virtuous cycle.

Primary Concerns

With 600 routes, bus riders in Seoul, South Korea, were often confused. Buses didn't run on time. And by 2004, 60 per cent of riders were complaining. The agency **colour-coded its buses** so riders could identify where they were headed, and routes were simplified. **Outcome:** Complaints went down to 15 per cent and ridership increased by 30 to 40 per cent.

Focus

Houston **cut back service on low-frequency bus routes** in favour of ensuring regular runs on the most well-used routes. That way, people can turn up to the bus stop without worrying about the schedule. **Outcome:** Bus ridership increased by 4 per cent without budget increases. It was one of two cities to see an increase of more than 1 per cent in 2016.

Fare Price

Facing high fares, L.A. **dedicated a half-cent sales tax** in 1980 to transit. Some money went to improving service, while another chunk went to lowering fares. **Outcome:** In 1985, L.A. had its best year for transit ridership. Fares skyrocketed afterwards, and L.A. never again reached the same ridership levels.

Wider Web

One way to make transit more attractive is to focus on the customer experience. That can mean **better bus shelters, clean stations**, or something as simple as **free Wi-Fi**. **Outcome:** In California, Amtrak achieved a 2.7 per cent increase in ridership after it introduced free Wi-Fi.

Culture Shock

To cut down on people driving to work alone in mostly-empty cars, Seattle introduced a **law** more than 20 years ago **forcing big companies to encourage alternatives** like transit or carpooling. Companies offered transit passes or cash incentives to quit driving. **Outcome:** Solo drivers declined by 4.6 per cent.

PUBLIC WORKS

The week in urbanism



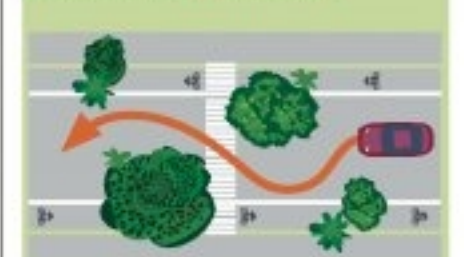
Sweden gets all the cool things

A Stockholm architecture firm has proposed a giant, glass egg-shaped indoor park. The idea is to give Stockholmers a green refuge during the long, cold winter months. The warm air for the greenhouse-like facility would come from a nearby underground parking lot.

Walk this way

Dubai has introduced a "smart" pedestrian traffic signal. Using sensors and cameras, it automatically detects the needs of pedestrians (walk time, number of pedestrians) on the sidewalk and in the crosswalk, and adjusts traffic signals accordingly.

URBAN DICTIONARY



DEFINITION

Woonerf is a Dutch word for streets that give equal priority to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians by placing them all on the same level and reducing driving speeds to walking pace. Also referred to as "home zones."

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

Emma felt safe walking down the neighbourhood **woonerf**, which put her at eye level with motorists.

CITY CHAMP

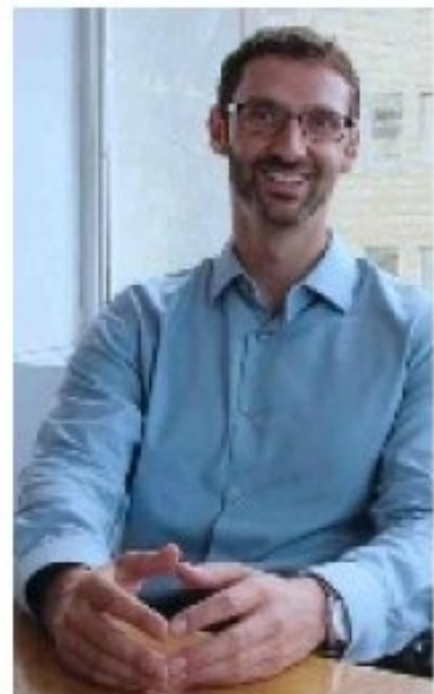
Hazel Borys is the managing director of PlaceMakers, a planning and consultation firm. Based in Winnipeg, Borys used to love sprawl, but now tweets about zoning, pedestrian issues, and art.

@hborys



WORD ON THE STREET by Sarah-Joyce Battersby

Popping ballooning budgets on mega infrastructure jobs



Matti Siemiatycki CONTRIBUTED

The federal government is expected to flesh out a plan Wednesday to invest almost \$190 billion in infrastructure over the next 12 years.

But will it be enough?

Whether it's Boston's Big Dig, Europe's Chunnel or (insert your local project here), mega projects are rarely on-budget. In fact, they chronically rack up extra costs.

Metro asked Matti Siemiatycki, a planning professor at the University of Toronto, why it happens, and how to fix it.

While mega projects are complex, consistent overruns suggest it's not random, he said. If it was, planners would

guess under budget sometimes, which rarely happens.

Instead, one theory goes that someone is lying, either to themselves or to others.

Lying to oneself is called optimism bias. It means we imagine best-case scenarios and hope issues can be controlled even as things go off the rails.

Lying to others is what leading scholar Bent Flyvbjerg calls strategic misrepresentation. Large projects sometimes incentivize fudging both the costs and the benefits, like giving overly sunny ridership projections for a transit project, in order to win public and political support.

But Siemiatycki has solutions.

Collect data: Governments should fire up the analytics machine and turn infrastructure planning into a numbers game, collecting stats on mega projects as diligently as baseball teams do for batters.

Change incentives: Reward the best solution, not the cheapest. Data could help here, giving better insight into which builders provide accurate budget and time projections, and put them at the top of the heap for bids.

Budget boot camp: A U.K. program put all civil servants working on projects over a certain cost threshold through

a training program to ward off bad planning.

Rope in private dollars:

When public projects team up with private enterprise often the same people are responsible for designing, building and maintaining it, so they can't pass the buck or dodge deadlines. Also, the deals generally reward meeting targets along the way.

However it's done, fixes need to come soon, said Siemiatycki, who fears public confidence in government is waning "not only to deliver projects, but to use infrastructure to address the major challenges that our communities face."



All of this centres on Eurocentric beauty standards, which privilege those who are white or are white adjacent in appearance

Shantel Buggs, PhD candidate in sociology at University of Texas



Racism in the dating game

CULTURE

Black women and Asian men the victims of cultural biases

Sofi Papamarko
life@metronews.ca



"I'm open to dating women of all backgrounds," he tells me. "Except for black women."

"I've just never been attracted to Asian men," she says.

Uncomfortable yet? Unfortunately, the vast majority of singles I've worked with have clear racial preferences and biases when it comes to dating. Now that I'm four years into professional matchmaking, I've seen clear patterns emerge when it comes to race and attraction.

White men: congratulations! Women of every racial background seem to strongly prefer dating you. Asian and Latin women are most popular with the gents. Black women and Asian men are the two groups most notably at a dating disadvantage. They are the hardest singles for me to match, because they tend to be excluded from the match searches of the majority of clients.

The online dating world is also stacked against them. According to Christian Rudder's OKCupid

blog, stats from 2014 show that 82 per cent of non-black men on OKCupid show some bias against black women. Asian men's profiles are consistently rated the lowest by single women using online dating sites. But why?

"Attractiveness is a very haphazard dish that can't be boiled down to height or skin colour, but Asian men are told that regardless of what the idyllic mirepoix is or isn't, we just don't have the ingredients," television host Eddie Huang recently wrote in the New York Times.

Pop culture is a window into desire. Consider the male Asian characters in movies you've seen in the last several years. When was the last time you saw a North American film where a desirable Asian man played the lead and didn't know martial arts?

A similar story presents itself when we deconstruct black women in popular culture. In film and television, black women are often portrayed as two-dimensional "strong and sassy" stereotypes. When cast as a romantic interest, they're usually played by biracial or multiracial women with lighter skin tones.

"Society tells us that black women are hypersexual but also more masculine than other women, while it suggests that Asian men are less masculine — to the point of being effeminate — and that they are physically less attractive," says Shantel

Buggs, a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Texas.

The exclusion of Asian men is a particularly visible problem in the gay community. "No rice, no spice" is the social networking apps Scruff and Grindr parlance for "no East Asian men, no South Asian men." Straight people aren't as upfront about their prejudices, but having spoken to several women of colour about their time online, they seem to get fewer matches than other women and are frequently fetishized when they do connect.

In a recent feature article in the Walrus, lawyer Hadiya Roderique detailed her challenges dating as a woman of colour. When Hadiya photoshopped her dating profile photos so that she appeared to be a white woman, her profile's popularity skyrocketed.

"When you combine demographics, the fact that users disproportionately message others of the same race, fetishism, sexualization of blackness, racism and anti-blackness, it adds up to — to put it mildly — a 'harder time' in those spaces," she said.

So are you racist if you aren't open to dating everyone? I don't know. Are you the product of a racist society? Undoubtedly, yes. We all are. And we're going to have to work hard at being inclusive and open-minded in dating and in every other aspect of life if we're set on making any progress at all. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The structural emasculation of Asian men in all forms of media became a self-fulfilling prophecy that produced an actual abhorrence to Asian men in the real world

TV host Eddie Huang



It's easy to keep yourself in the dark about racism and bias when you are part of the majority, and I seem to have shone a bit of light about this in those spaces

Hadiya Roderique, lawyer



HEADLINE
COFFEE



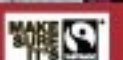
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Julia, a new autistic muppet character, debuts on April 10. AP

INCLUSION

Muppet with autism joins Sesame street

Folks on Sesame Street have a way of making everyone feel accepted.

That certainly goes for Julia, a Muppet youngster with blazing red hair, bright green eyes — and autism. Rather than being treated like an outsider, which too often is the plight of kids on the spectrum, Julia is one of the gang.

Look: On this friendliest of streets (actually Studio J at New York's Kaufman Astoria Stu-

dios, where Sesame Street lives) Julia is about to play a game with Oscar, Abby and Grover. In this scene being taped for airing next season, these Muppet chums have been challenged to spot objects shaped like squares or circles or triangles.

"You're lucky," says Abby to Grover. "You have Julia on your team, and she is really good at finding shapes!"

With that, they skedaddle, an exit that calls for the six

Muppeteers squatted out of sight below them to scramble accordingly. Joining her pals, Julia (performed by Stacey Gordon) takes off hunting.

For more than a year, Julia has existed in print and digital illustrations as the centerpiece of a multifaceted initiative by Sesame Workshop called Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing in All Children.

She has been the subject of a storybook released along with

videos, e-books, an app and website. The goal is to promote a better understanding of what the Autism Speaks advocacy group describes as "a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviours, speech and nonverbal communication."

But now Julia has been brought to life in fine Muppet in the Meet Julia episode airing April 10.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANKING

Happiness is not all about money: study

We're happy...just a little less happy than usual.

That's the main Canadian takeaway from the World Happiness Report where the country dropped to its lowest-ever ranking, coming in at seventh place, having usually occupied fifth or sixth on the list.

Norway is now the happiest country on Earth, Americans are getting sadder, and it takes more than just money to be happy were the other primary findings.

Norway vaulted to the top slot despite the plummeting price of oil, a key part of its economy. Income in the U.S. has gone up over the past decade, but happiness is declining. The U.S. was 14th, down from No. 13 last year.

"It's the human things that matter. If the riches make it harder to have frequent and trustworthy relationship between people, is it worth it?" asked John Helliwell, the lead author of the report and an economist at the University of British Columbia. "The material can stand in the way of the human."

Norway moved from No. 4 to the top spot in the report's rankings, which combine economic, health and polling data compiled by economists that are averaged over three years from 2014 to 2016. Norway edged past previous champ Denmark, which fell to second. Iceland, Switzerland and Finland round out the top 5.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7
Canada dropped from sixth place to seventh in the new World Happiness Index.

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Study discovers connection between swelling drug and depression rates

A common class of medications used to treat urinary symptoms in men with an enlarged prostate does not boost the risk of suicide, but in rare cases can cause depression, a study has found.

Researchers investigating the potential adverse effects of finasteride and dutasteride after Health Canada issued a warning about a possible link between the drugs and suicidal behaviour. These drugs, known as 5-alpha reductase inhibitors, or 5ARIs, work by shrinking the prostate.

"Our study shows that 5-alpha reductase inhibitors do not lead to an increased risk of suicide," said Dr. Blayne Welk, a urologist at Western University in London, Ont., who led the study. "However, it is concerning that we found a small but significant increase in the risk of self-harm and depression."

Researchers analyzed 2003-13 health data from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences for 186,000 men over age 65 with an enlarged prostate, half of whom were being treated with finasteride or dutasteride and half of whom had not been prescribed either of the drugs.

Among the men who took one of the medications, there were 38 deaths from suicide: 16 of them were taking finasteride and 22 were on dutasteride. But in the group that was not prescribed one of the 5ARI medications, 36 also took their own lives. The rate of suicide in the two groups is similar to that of males in the general population.

Welk said it is impossible to prove if the drugs were behind the self-inflicted deaths, as there may have been confounding factors such as mental health problems or other illnesses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Knit this in, untie those knots

YOGA

Twisted Stitcher pose is tailor-made for relaxing

YuMee Chung

life@metronews.ca

This week's offering is one of the exercises my granny would do, much to my chagrin, while watching me at the playground.

I use it today as a pre-yoga warm-up to mobilize the spine, relax the shoulders and improve circulation in the hands.

Take note knitters, crocheters and other textile artists: this one is tailor-made for you.

1. Situate yourself in a wide-open space with your feet set shoulder-distance apart and arms hanging slackly by your sides.
2. Rotate your spine to the right as you gaze over the right shoulder and pivot onto your left toes to protect your knees. Then, do the same on the second side.
3. Turn from side-to-side, gaining speed as you go.
4. Curl your hands into loose fists and, moving only with momentum, percussively massage your lower back.
5. Then, bring the hands up to thump the fronts of your shoulders.

6. Finally, gain enough momentum to throw the arms over your shoulders and tenderize your upper back and the corners of your neck for five or more breaths.
7. Decelerate until the body comes to stillness and your arms hang heavy by your sides.
8. Notice the warmth in your hands and the feeling of well-being. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

YuMee Chung is a recovering lawyer who teaches yoga in Toronto. She is on the faculty of several yoga teacher training programs and leads international yoga retreats. Learn more about her at padmani.com.



YuMee's Twisted Stitcher. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Underfed and vulnerable but Anne's resolve is unwavering

THE SHOW: *Anne*, Season 1, Episodes 1 & 2 (CBC)
THE MOMENT: The stump

Siblings Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert (R.H. Thomson and Geraldine James, both perfect) wanted to adopt a boy to help work their Prince Edward Island farm. Instead they got Anne (Amybeth McNulty, also perfect) an exuberant, redheaded orphan tween whose imagination outweighs her underfed frame. Matthew fell for her, but Marilla, more practical, thinks Anne should return to the orphanage.

"Couldn't I do the farm chores even though I'm a girl?" Anne asks.

"That's not the way of things and you know it," Marilla replies.

"But couldn't I?" Anne persists. "I'm as strong as a boy, and I prefer to be outdoors."

Marilla's resolve wavers. "Do you consider yourself to be delicate and incapable?" Anne asks. "Because I don't."

That's the text of this Anne



Amybeth McNulty is perfect as exuberant Anne. CONTRIBUTED

reboot, from creator Moira Walley-Beckett, who went from writing *Breaking Bad* to creating the backstage-at-the-ballet drama *Flesh and Bone* to *Green Gables*.

But Walley-Beckett also gives us subtext. Reading between the novel's lines and adding verisimilitude, she gives us quick but potent glimpses of the miseries many orphans faced in 1890s Imperialist culture.

As Anne makes her case to Marilla, we recall two flashes we've just seen: Anne, alone in a room in an orphan asylum,

with two men moving in on her as the door swings shut. And Anne, in indentured servitude to a family with too many children, bent over a stump, skirts lifted, being beaten by a drunk man.

She doesn't tell Marilla why she so desperately needs to stay. But Walley-Beckett makes sure we see it.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

YouTubers hit out at 'restricted' filter

SOCIAL MEDIA

Tegan and Sara lead calls to lift block on gay, trans content

A chorus of Canadian LGBTQ YouTubers, including pop duo Tegan and Sara, is calling for the video service to stop filtering out gay and trans-themed videos for some users.

The Calgary-raised sisters took to social media to question why YouTube's "restricted" setting blocks a wide variety of LGBTQ-friendly content for no clear reason.

"If you put YouTube on restricted mode a bunch of our music videos disappear. I checked myself. LGBTQ people shouldn't be restricted. SAD!" Tegan and Sara (below) tweeted. Among the missing clips were videos from their latest album, including for "That Girl" and "U-turn."

They were joined by Halifax singer Ria Mae, who said her video for Gold, which features the singer in a lesbian relationship, was also being filtered out.

"Young gay kids need to see themselves represented and they need to know it's normal, it's OK and it's not X-rated," Mae said in a video on her Instagram account.

"It sends a bad mes-

sage to young gay kids and young trans kids that their lives are not normal or acceptable."

At issue is YouTube's "restricted" designation, which lets parents, schools and libraries filter content that may be considered inappropriate for users under 18. YouTube calls it "an optional feature used by a very small subset of users."

What's unclear is whether the types of videos in question are being labelled as "restricted" for the first time, or if this has been an ongoing practice that's only recently gained attention.

Video producer Michael Rizzi, who's based in Toronto, says he's concerned with the message it sends to loyal YouTube users. He's seen 176 of his 236 videos disappear.

"restricted" mode, representing 75 per cent of the clips he's uploaded over the past five years.

"It's more a feeling of being pushed to the side," Rizzi says. "It's a pretty big screw-up on their end."

In an emailed statement on Monday, YouTube acknowledged the filter saying "some videos that cover subjects like health, politics and sexuality may not appear for users and institutions that choose to use this feature."

YouTube added later that "some videos are incorrectly labelled by our automated system and we realize it's very important to get this right."

"We're working hard to make some improvements," the company said without offering further details.

The lack of information has left YouTubers struggling to determine what's being sifted out, what isn't and why it's happening.

Rizzi suspects video tags like "LGBT" or "gay couple" may be triggering the filter for 7 Things I Love About My Boyfriend, a video he says shouldn't be restricted for a younger audience.

Even his clip commissioned for YouTube's #ProudToBe campaign, timed to last year's Pride Month, is now filtered out.

"YouTube's own equality campaign is restricted, which is probably the weirdest part of everything," Rizzi says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mickey

Domestic Short Hair

Mickey is a fun cat, and despite being a little overweight he has a playful energy. Mickey has lived with other cats, and came to the shelter along with his play buddy Hudson. Eight-year-old Mickey finds himself in need of a new forever home, as his former guardians moved away and were unable to take him.

He is an easy-going guy who would be happy on his own or with another cat.



For more information on Mickey and other adoptable furry friends, visit www.spcans.ca/dartmouthshelter or contact the Nova Scotia SPCA Provincial Animal Shelter at 902-468-7877 or dartmouth@spcans.ca

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A fun-filled summer in French

Keeping up with French through the summer months is a great way to help kids with their fluency.

Canadian Parents for French Nova Scotia offers a lot of great day camps and overnight camps — all in French.

"We have overnight camps in Nova Scotia, the Magdalen Islands and even one in St. Pierre, France," says Rebecca Lancaster, executive director.

Day camps for six- to nine-year-olds feature vocabulary reinforcement, art, music, field trips, games and swimming.

Camp Artistique for ages 10 to 14 has a focus on the arts while Camp de la Baie, also for ages 10 to 14, has sports, gaga ball, archery, roller skating, evening activities, camp skits and a Friday night dance.

"Our camp at the Centre nautique de l'Isthorlet introduces campers to all kinds of water activities such as windsurfing, snorkeling, and sailing," Lancaster says. "The campers (ages 12 to 16) also ride bikes, learn archery, go hiking and learn about the culture of the Magdalene Islands."

Campers aged 15 to 17 in the Sea Kayak expedition spend the day kayaking the shorelines of the island and in the



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evening they're cooking and camping under the stars.

"Our only international camp takes place at the FrancoForum on the French island of St Pierre for 14- to 18-year-olds," she says. "Students take in the language and culture of Europe while only a 90-minute flight from Halifax."

Whether campers are reinforcing their skills or it is their first experience learning French, these camps give kids a fun-filled summer and a deeper love and knowledge of French.

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Ages 12-16 yrs

Sea Kayaking Adventure Camp

Îles-de-la-Madeleine/Magdalen Islands, Quebec
Ages 15-17 yrs

Camp Artistique*

Barton, Digby County
Ages 10-14 yrs

Camp de la Baie*

Sambro Head, HRM
Ages 10-14 yrs

Day Camps

Hydrostone, Halifax
Ages 6-10 yrs

Chapter Camps

For more on local camps, contact your local CPF chapter.

For more information, call the Camp Coordinator:
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1-877-CPF-5233



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DAL CAMPS OPEN FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Dalhousie University's Department of Athletics offers diverse summer camps giving kids the chance to develop new skills, meet friends, keep active and have a lot of fun this summer.

Dal camps are for kids aged five to 17. There are recreational and sport-specific camp options which run all summer long including Active Kids, Junior Leadership and camps geared toward climbing, soccer, basketball, hockey, volleyball and competitive swimming.

"We have so many options you that could

take a different program each week throughout the summer," said Amanda Kirby-Sheppard with Dalplex.

Campers also receive a pass to watch any DalTigers regular season home game, a family day pass to Dalplex and a camp T-shirt or jersey. Plus Dalplex family members save 10 per cent off of camp fees with the exception of hockey camps. There are cafeteria-style lunches with nutritious and healthy options included for most full-day, on-campus camps.

And for the convenience of parents, there is

free early drop-off and late pickup 45 minutes before and after camps.

Campers should bring all necessary equipment such as suitable clothing, gym shoes, hat, lock, water bottle, sun screen and snacks. And it's best to be a bit early on the first day to allow for extra time to get settled. Dalhousie provides inclusion services and modified arrangements for campers who need it.

Dalhousie has been running camps for kids for over 20 years and all camps are co-ed unless otherwise specified. Book your space by registering on-line through dal.ca/camps.



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DALPLEX



Police say Tom Brady's missing Super bowl jersey has been tracked in "possession of a credentialed member of the international media" in Mexico

Hart-racing shift

Sidney Crosby and Connor McDavid looked to be running away from the pack in the Hart Trophy race at mid-season but, since then, a flood of worthy contenders has emerged. Here is a look at the now crowded field:

1 Sidney Crosby

He's No. 1 in points-per-game and clinched his first 40-goal season since 2009-10. He's right there in the thick of the race for the Rocket Richard and Art Ross trophies despite a nearly two-week absence to start the season.



2 Connor McDavid

He's only 20, in his second NHL season and already an MVP candidate. The Oilers' captain has had a hand in almost 40 per cent of his club's offence, leads the NHL in assists and is a favourite to win the scoring title.



3 Patrick Kane

He's not producing at last year's MVP pace — 46 goals and 106 points — but has been pretty close to it in the past couple months, collecting 20 goals and 30 points since Feb. 1. The NHL hasn't had a repeat MVP winner since Alex Ovechkin (2008, 2009).



4 Evgeni Malkin

Second to only Crosby in points-per-game, Malkin is headed for his biggest season offensively since 2011-12 when he won the Art Ross and Hart trophies by posting 50 goals and 109 points.



5 Brad Marchand

No one had more goals or points since the beginning of December heading into Monday's action, making the 28-year-old from Hammonds Plains a viable threat to win both the Art Ross and Rocket Richard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/
PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES



6 Brent Burns

Burns is tracking toward one of the more electric seasons from a defenceman ever. He has an outside shot at joining Paul Coffey, Bobby Orr, Ray Bourque, Denis Potvin and Doug Wilson (his GM in San Jose) as the only blue-liners to crack 30 goals and 80 points.

Erik Karlsson

Ottawa's captain is tiptoeing back into the Hart race with maybe the most well-rounded season of his career. Karlsson is pretty close to a point-per-game again despite a drop in ice-time while leading the league in blocked shots.



MLB

Blue Jays, J.D. take 'big step forward'

Toronto Blue Jays star Josh Donaldson made his spring training debut Monday, going 0-for-2 with a walk in his first game since injuring his right calf more than a month ago.

The 2015 AL MVP hurt himself Feb. 17 while running sprints. He was the designated hitter in an 8-2 loss to Minnesota, and is scheduled to play at his normal third base spot Wednesday.

"It was nice to get on the field and run a little bit," Donaldson said. "As far as how my calf is feeling right now, it feels normal. That's what we want."

Donaldson faced Tyler Duffey twice, striking out in the first inning and then walking on a 3-2 pitch. In his final at-bat against Adalberto Mejia in the sixth, Donaldson reached when his pop fly to shallow centre was misplayed for an error.



Josh Donaldson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"A really big day," Toronto manager John Gibbons said. "We've been waiting for this day. It's a big step forward."

"It's huge for the team that he's on the field."

Donaldson hit .284 with 37 homers and 99 RBIs last season. He has been an all-star in three straight seasons.

Second baseman Devon Travis, who had surgery on his right knee in the off-season and is slowed by a bone bruise, played defence for the first time in a minor-league game. He could rejoin the Jays for Friday's game versus Boston. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Homan rink rises to top

Rachel Homan and her Canada rink gave themselves a major confidence boost Monday in their quest for gold at the women's world curling championship, handing Switzerland its first loss and taking sole possession of first place in the round-robin standings in Beijing.

Canada improved to 5-0 with an 8-6 win over Swiss skip by Alina Paetz, a two-time world champion. The Canadians also topped the U.S. 7-5. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. women to continue discussions ahead of worlds

The U.S. women's national team says discussions with USA Hockey over an ongoing wage dispute were productive and will continue.

The team released a statement Monday night after a lengthy meeting that included almost 20 players and top executives.

Players announced last week they'd boycott the upcoming world championships in Plymouth, Mich., unless progress was made. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNYE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Avoid the siren call of the food court and whip up your own healthy, delicious lunch. Not today, chilli fries!

Ready in 10 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients

- 1 can tuna, packed in water (5 oz)
- 1 stem of celery, chopped fine
- 3 or 4 cherry tomatoes, chopped
- 1 or 2 Tbsp mayonnaise
- 2 tortillas
- 1 carrot, grated
- 1/2 avocado, sliced

Directions

1. In a bowl, mix tuna, celery, tomatoes and mayonnaise.
2. Lay your tortillas on a work surface. Spoon a stripe of tuna mixture down the middle of each tortilla. Now lay down a strip of the grated carrot, right next to the tuna. Place slices of avocado right next to the carrot.
3. Wrap one side of the tortilla over the other. Now tuck in the sides and keep rolling so everything is snugly inside.
4. Slice the tortilla in half and serves with a side of mixed greens.

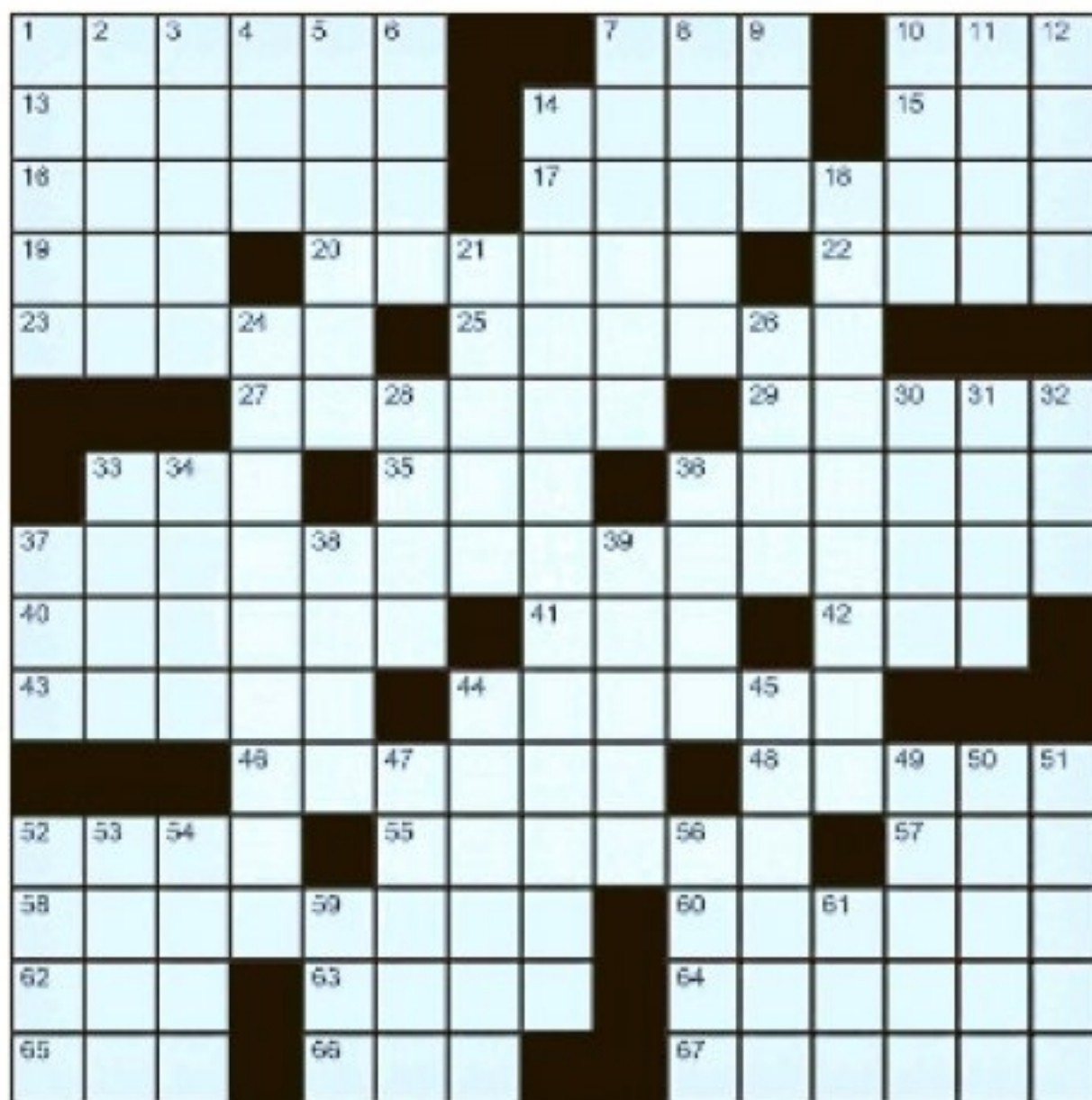
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. North West Mounted Police officer, Sam _ (b.1849 - d.1919)
7. Undergarment, e.g.
10. Canadian restaurant chain, The _ Steakhouse + Bar
13. Pondered
14. _ lily
15. Brick wall's greenery
16. Checking out a website
17. Naysayer
19. Pad _ Mao (Rice noodles dish)
20. Garden statues
22. Via, in verse
23. Accounting firm, _ & Young
25. Most abundant
27. Peoples' possessive pronouns
29. Entice
33. Neither here _ there
35. "The Crying Game" (1992) actor Stephen
36. More blood-and-guts-ish
37. Canadian magician Doug Henning was this political group's candidate (in the Rose-dale riding of Toronto) in the 1993 federal election: 3 wds.
40. Unchanged: 3 wds.
41. "Kids" (2001)
42. Telephone bk. listings
43. Fettuccine is a form
44. Like the CN logo
46. 1928: Trivial Breath poet Ms. Wylie
48. Requirements



52. 'Shake' with a spoon
55. Expressed
57. Shoppers Drug Mart cosmetics line
58. Population counts
60. Temple ceremony
62. Dramatist's division

63. Way to kick the football
64. Creature in a Tennessee Williams play title
65. 17th Greek letter
66. _ in stone
67. More man-of-the-monor-ly

DOWN

11. Deep Purple's " _ on the Water"
2. Radio dial
3. Ms. DeGeneres
4. High Priest in the Old Testament
5. Distance
6. Shangri-la

7. Summarizing papers
8. The Russian language, in Quebec City
9. Band's bitty blaster
10. _ and kin (Friends and family)
11. Goffin-King

- penned tune: "Don't _ Change"
12. Pita serving perhaps
14. Scenic driving route in the Avalon region of Newfoundland: 2 wds.
18. Vocalization
21. Bay window
24. Models when on the fashion runway
26. End the endlessness
28. Epochs
30. Spanish artist, Joan _ (b.1893 - d.1983)
31. Goldfish and canaries
32. " _ (Just a Little Bit Harder)" by Janis Joplin
33. Galaxy gr.
34. Mr. Redding
36. Ms. Paltrow, for short
37. Reclined rest
38. Oman money
39. Towards the ship's left side
44. Aim
45. Jeans hue
47. Periodical's particular publishing
49. = meaning
50. One of the NHL's six Sutter Brothers from Viking, Alberta
51. Sun-related
52. Boo-boo in Al Pacino's 1983 flick
53. _savvy
54. Call Question link
56. CNN anchor Ms. Burnett
59. Un-downs
61. _ of margarine

*IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You should know that others notice you today, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. Therefore, be mindful of your behaviour. Fortunately, you will be sympathetic toward someone, which makes you look good.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Thoughts of travelling appeal to you now. In particular, you will appreciate the beauty of arts and crafts from other cultures. You also will enjoy the stimulation of different surroundings.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have to divide or share something with someone today, you will be more than generous. In fact, remember to be fair to yourself as well. Don't give away the farm.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Fortunately, you will find this easy to do because you feel genuinely sympathetic and concerned for someone else's welfare.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Because you feel sympathetic toward a co-worker today, he or she might come to you for advice or counseling. Never pass up an opportunity to practice kindness.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Welcome any opportunity to express your creative talent today. You are not a noun; you are a verb. It's the doing that really counts.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might want to cocoon at home today and seek out some privacy, because you feel the need to catch your breath and enjoy your own space. That's just fine. We all need to do this from time to time.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
When talking to others today, you won't be satisfied with superficial chitchat. You want a real, meaningful discussion with someone. (Not just comments about the weather.)

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If out shopping today, you might be tempted to spend too much money on luxurious items. It's your nature to go big or go home.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today the moon is in your sign, which makes you more emotional than usual. The good news is that this can attract a little bit of extra good luck!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you will prefer some privacy. Ideally, you will work alone or behind the scenes, because this will suit you best.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
A conversation with a female friend is important. Perhaps you need to confide in someone, or someone needs to confide in you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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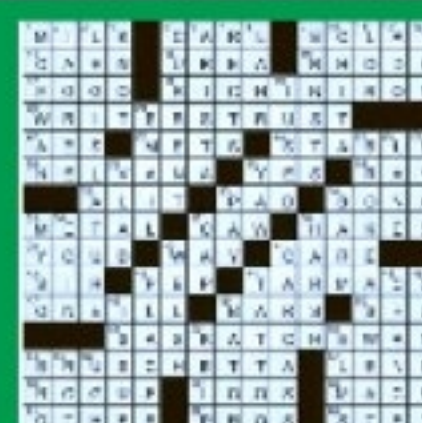
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